

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9554

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 2089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON NORTHERN IRELAND: HEAVY
COVERAGE, RECEPTIVE REACTION

1. PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND RECEIVED EXTREMELY HEAVY NEWSPAPER, TV AND RADIO COVERAGE IN IRELAND. THE STATEMENT RECEIVED HEADLINE COVERAGE IN ALL THREE DUBLIN DAILIES AND IN THE CORK EXAMINER. THE PAPERS RECOGNIZED THAT THE INITIATIVE, THROUGH MODEST, IS ONE OF THE FIRST NEW MOVES ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM IN SOME YEARS AND ALL EMPHASIZED THAT THE STATEMENT RECOGNIZED THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND IN ANY SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. THE PAPERS ALSO EMPHASIZED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT A SOLUTION THAT PROTECTS HUMAN RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION. EDITORIAL REACTION BEING SENT SEPTEL BY USINFO CHANNEL.

2. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE STATEMENT AS A CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT IN AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH IRELAND AND BRITAIN AND COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER RIGHTLY UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING A JUST SOLUTION BY PEACEFUL MEANS IN WHICH BOTH
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PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS WELL AS THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WILL BE INVOLVED. FULL TEXT OF GOI STATEMENT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

3. ON BEHALF OF THE FIANNA GAEL PARTY, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT PETTER BARRY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING:
"WE WELCOME PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONSTRUCTIVE STATEMENT

AND ARE PLEASED TO NOTE HIS DETERMINATION TO STOP THE FLOW OF MONEY FOR ARMS. IF THERE IS MORE AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AS I AM SURE THERE WILL BE, AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN PROVIDE JOBS ON AN IMPARTIAL BASIS, THEN GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIVIDED COMMUNITIES WILL RESULT. THE PROMOTION OF THIS UNDERSTANDING MUST BE THE IMMEDIATE AIM OF EVERY IRISHMAN WHO DESIRES PEACE AND REUNIFICATION OF IRELAND."

4. THE LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY, FRANK CLUSKEY, WELCOMED THE STATEMENT BOTH FOR ITS CONTENT AND ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. CLUSKEY EMPHASIZED THAT HE WELCOMED THE PRESIDENT'S ASSERTION THAT VIOLENCE WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND HIS CALL FOR GUARANTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND AN END TO DISCRIMINATION. CLUSKEY ADDED THAT THE LABOR PARTY HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED A POLITICAL SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY. SHANNON

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